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## **Governor Doyle Accepts Report on Homeland Security in Wisconsin**

### ***Report Details Major Improvements in Homeland Security; Governor Also Proclaims September 'Preparedness Month' in Wisconsin***

Governor Jim Doyle today accepted a report from his Homeland Security Advisor, Major General Al Wilkening, which details ongoing state efforts to increase homeland security in Wisconsin. Governor Doyle highlighted significant progress that has been made, but also noted that the state must remain vigilant and continue efforts to improve homeland security.

"For 18 months, the Homeland Security Council has worked to improve coordination between federal, state, and local agencies and to make sure Wisconsin is able to help prevent and respond to any potential threat," Governor Doyle said. "This includes making sure our first responders are well equipped and well trained, securing Homeland Security funding, securing critical infrastructure, and providing education materials to our citizens to keep them informed."

In March 2003, Governor Doyle established the Governor's Homeland Security Council, which includes representatives from across state government. Major General Al Wilkening of the Wisconsin National Guard serves as Homeland Security Advisor. At the news conference, General Wilkening presented Governor Doyle with a Homeland Security Report, which shows the progress Wisconsin has made since Governor Doyle ordered the creation of the Homeland Security Council.

"Today, homeland security in Wisconsin is much better integrated at all levels – federal, state, and local government, first responders, community organizations, and citizens – into a statewide system led by the Homeland Security Council," Governor Doyle said.

#### Steps Wisconsin has taken include:

- Since January 2002, Wisconsin Emergency Management directly provided 1,278 emergency management training courses throughout the state – training nearly 23,000 first responders from fire departments, law enforcement, emergency management, volunteer groups, and other agencies.
- Governor Doyle signed legislation to mandate premises registration in the State of Wisconsin, so that a disease outbreak can be more quickly traced back to a particular farm or a particular animal. The Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) worked with the Wisconsin Livestock Industry Consortium to design a premises registration system, which was recently selected by the USDA as the interim system for premises registration nationwide.

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- A \$621,000 Homeland Security grant from the Office of Justice Assistance to the Educational Communications Board funded the replacement and an upgrade of Wisconsin's aging National Weather Service transmission system, which is used to broadcast emergency information to the public.
- Wisconsin has used nearly \$3 million to improve the security of a number of state-owned facilities, including numerous university labs that store hazardous substances, Camp Randall Stadium, the Kohl Center, the Expo Center, State Fair Park, the Marquette Interchange, and the Hoan Bridge.
- Wisconsin is one of the first states to establish a health professionals volunteer registry – identifying nearly 700 health professionals that can be used to assist local physicians and nurses in the event of a large-scale emergency.

Governor Doyle also proclaimed September "Preparedness Month" in Wisconsin as part of a nationwide effort by Governors to call attention to homeland security as we approach the anniversary of September 11, 2001. During the next few days – and throughout the month of September – Governor Doyle and the Homeland Security Council encourage organizations to demonstrate some of their capabilities in Wisconsin's continuing efforts to keep the state secure.

Scheduled Events for Wisconsin Preparedness Month:

- **Friday, September 10, 2004** – Local and state emergency response agencies are encouraged to hold an open house or safety fair at their department, courthouse, or local facility to display new emergency response equipment and show their capabilities in local demonstration. Fire, law enforcement, EMS, hazmat teams, emergency management, and other response agencies are encouraged to jointly display some of their new preparedness equipment, including mobile command posts, equipment trailers, and communications gear.
- **Saturday, September 11, 2004** – This will be a day of reflection and of volunteerism. Volunteer groups such as the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, church groups, and search and rescue teams are encouraged to hold blood drives, promote citizen corps and CERT training, put up displays about their organization, and hold open houses and other local events.
- **Sunday, September 12, 2004** – The Wisconsin National Guard will be showing its enhanced military capabilities during a demonstration of the National Guard Rapid Response Force (RRF) in Green Bay.

For more information on Preparedness Month, please contact LTC Tim Donovan at 608-242-3050 or Lori Getter of Wisconsin Emergency Management at 608-242-3239.

For more information on homeland security in Wisconsin, visit: <http://homelandsecurity.wi.gov>.